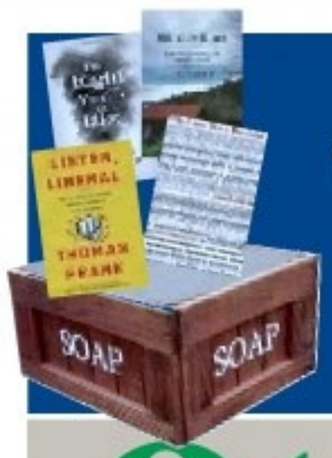

HOW TO ARGUE WITH A HILLBILLY

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Stuart McLean
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LeRoy Walden of Detroit Soul Food Canada, a new southern-style restaurant whose food is only available through UberEATS, shows off a chicken and waffle on a stick on Wednesday.
JUSTIN TANG/FOR METRO

Soul food SURVIVOR

The local chef who's ditching bricks and mortar for a 'ghost restaurant'

metroNEWS

Liberals rally behind MP's racism motion

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Tories object to focus on Islamophobia

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

A parliamentary motion condemning Islamophobia and asking for a deeper look at hate crimes will likely pass in the House of Commons after the Liberal government put its weight behind it.

Liberal MP Iqra Khalid's motion calls on the government to recognize the need to quell a increasing climate of hate and fear, request the heritage committee develop a government-wide approach to reducing racism, including Islamophobia, and collect data on hate crime reports.

The motion was set for debate Wednesday night after Metro's deadline, but several Conservatives have already said they're disappointed it singles out only one religion.

Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly said the motion fully respects freedom of speech.

"Motion 103 is about ensuring that in Canada we stand for free and respectful exchanges of ideas and opinions and there is no place for hatred and no tolerance of abuse," she said.

The motion is not binding, but Joly still said it would show that the government wants to be inclusive.

"We need to make sure that every single citizen in this country feels included," she said.

Khalid rejected calls to remove the word Islamophobia from her motion.

"We have had support from Canadians at large on the wording of the motion as it stands today," she said. "Watering down the words of this motion is not in the best interest of all of these people."

> **There is no place for hatred and no tolerance of abuse.**
> Iqra Khalid

She said the motion is about all types of discrimination.

"This motion, while it names Islamophobia, is broad in scope to include all marginalized communities."

Several Conservative leadership hopefuls including Maxime Bernier, Andrew Scheer and Kellie Leitch indicated they would be voting against the motion, citing free speech concerns.

In an email to supporters, Leitch said tolerance had to go both ways. "Canada is a tolerant society, but tolerance isn't just the right to hold beliefs, it is also the right to disagree with other beliefs and criticize them."

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EDUCATION

Students give city top marks

Sarah Davies
For Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa is the best city in the world for university students — just ask the scholars who live here.

The city nabbed the No. 1 spot, ahead of Prague and Shanghai, in the latest Best Student Cities survey, published by the educational consultancy QS.

From December 2016 to January 2017, more than 18,000 students and graduates from around the world answered questionnaires about their cities. They were asked about local culture, employment opportunities and their desire to stay in their city after graduating.

Carleton University and University of Ottawa students gave the city high scores in friendliness, tolerance and nightlife. They also applauded the capital's multiculturalism, bilingualism and opportunities in government.

While Ottawa passed with flying colours in the eyes of its own students, the city fell flat when additional data was added.

The capital ranked 26 out of 100 cities when university rankings, safety figures, student population and more were added to the equation.

Nearby Montréal triumphed as the best city overall, climbing up from its seventh spot last year.

Watson king of tweets among Canadian mayors

SOCIAL MEDIA

Executive at Twitter praises frequency, quality of posts

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The results are in: among Canadian big city mayors on Twitter, Jim Watson has the fifth highest follower count and the overall highest number of individual tweets.

Watson has sent out over 72,000 Tweets since he started on the platform in 2009, making him the most active mayor on Twitter. Mayor Naheed Nenshi of Calgary is a distant second, with about 52,000. Montreal mayor Denis Coderre comes third with over 46,000 Tweets.

Politicians across the country use Twitter to connect with people, but Christopher Doyle of Twitter Canada said municipal politicians are some of the most prolific.

"We find, especially with politicians, authenticity wins the day," said Doyle. "You're absolutely able to have these real conversations, which is so interesting. Obviously, anyone who serves a public office brings a passion for what they do and a passion to serve people. You can bring that passion to Twitter and have real conversations."

Doyle said that, in general, posts that include photos, have a positive message or are newsworthy garner the most attention.

He also noted Watson's dedication to posting photos of community events he attends around the city.

"Anything that is celebratory in nature does really, really well," said Doyle. "Mayor Watson was tweeting a lot, as he should, about the Redblacks winning the Grey Cup. In that way they can celebrate along with the community and they can do that in a way that includes photos and videos."

In the case of Mayor Watson, hockey, football and social justice have earned him the most retweets and likes overall.

One Twitter user, apparently uncomfortable with the pro-LGBTQ message, responded by saying, "This is a stupid waste of time. You've lost my vote."

In response, Watson said: "if you have that point of view, I really don't want your vote."

Similarly brazen tweets — on topics like vaping and road closures — have also done well.

The Pride Flag will fly at Ottawa City Hall until the end of the Olympics. #Sochi2014.
@JimWatsonOttawa, 1:13 p.m. - Feb. 6 2014
Remember 417 completely closed in both directions at 6 pm - plan ahead and don't tweet me in an angry state saying you didn't know at 6:01pm
@JimWatsonOttawa, 10:28 a.m. - Jun. 21, 2014

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson has sent over 72,000 tweets over Twitter, and has the fifth largest following among big city mayors in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Kid Koala loves weird Ottawa

BACKSTAGE PASS

Veteran DJ sees specialness in capital's local record stores

Trevor Greenway
For Metro | Ottawa

Kid Koala can tell a lot about a city by flipping through just a few crates of records at a local music store.

The Montreal musician, turntablist, producer and DJ always cruises for that "left field" sound when in a new city — the weirder the local wax, the more willing music fans are to push their musical boundaries.

And Ottawa's record shops, Koala says, have spoken volumes over the years.

"I always knew there was stuff happening in Ottawa," says Koala, a.k.a. Eric San, the Montreal-born DJ who can often be seen bouncing to chopped-up beats wrapped in a fuzzy koala suit. "You could tell by the indie record stores, whether it was just your regular middle-of-the-road Top 40 albums, or whether people were digging deeper for stuff.

It was clear, he says, that Ottawa "was always surprisingly open to even left-field music."

In that light, it stands to reason that Ottawa is the only city in the world, besides Montreal, that has seen every single production Kid Koala has put on. From his scratch DJ days with Ninja Tunes in the '90s, to last year's breathtaking graphic-novel-turned-live-show, Nufonia Must Fall, the nation's capital has always been at the top of San's tour dates.

And it's not just because of proximity. As San puts it, the city has always been willing to jump into his rocket ship and fly to Mars with him without even arranging a ride home.

Kid Koala (a.k.a. Eric San) always includes this city in tour dates. CONTRIBUTED

> "Ottawa, like Montreal — it's a very nurturing city for creatives."
> Kid Koala

"If you ask me what I gained from that, it was partly the courage to be able push outside of what might be expected from, say, a scratch DJ," San says. "I think Ottawa, like Montreal — it's a very nurturing city for creatives, meaning the economy around art and music is less about bar sales or more about doing something cool with music."

Case in point: The forward-thinking Arboretum, the artist showcase and conference Megaphono, the literally underground hip-hop festival House of Paint — all and more are driving the city's collective creative conscience to new heights.

While San used to "smash turntables apart" to crowd-surfing revellers at Babylon in the '90s, he now puts them in a slow trance at churches, museums and libraries, often tasking them with some form of interaction within the shows.

It will be no different when his Satellite concert series hits the NAC tonight: Koala will cue audience members play to records and loop sounds at 50 turntable stations set up in the venue. The idea is to create a live, organic DJ orchestra.

But don't worry if you're not musically inclined; the show won't completely collapse if you turn the interstellar orbiter the wrong way.

"We're not trying to cause anyone an anxiety attack or performance anxiety," he adds, chuckling.

"The songs themselves, for the most part, are quite downtempo."

Kid Koala's Satellite runs through Saturday.

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ENTREPRENEUR

Soul food chef switches to start up a 'ghost restaurant'

Alex Parsons
For Metro | Ottawa

Hallville was too far from Ottawa, Somerset had some hiccups, a west-end food truck was a struggle and Gladstone had landlord issues.

Local chef LeRoy Walden has been cooking and selling soul food in the capital region since 2008, through a succession of ventures, none of which was quite right.

Now he's opening Detroit Soul Food Canada with a radical new business model: selling food exclusively through UberEATS.

"Movie theatres all over are shut down because people are staying in and they're watching Netflix," Walden said. "The same goes for full-service restaurants, and that's one of the reasons I didn't want to open another."

Since closing his last location, he's dabbled in catering and cooking for nightclubs like Mercury Lounge, but now he is part of the vanguard of a new kind of food industry in Canada.

"'Ghost restaurants' are popping up all over in the States, where I'm from," Walden said. "All I have to do is cook for my customers."

LeRoy Walden's food is now delivery only. JUSTIN TANG/METRO

As of this past Tuesday, he now operates out of The Cauldron Kitchen in Vanier, working Tuesday to Saturday from 7 to 11:30 p.m. His menu offers southern soul-food specialties like fried chicken and waffles, mac and cheese and a variety of sides and desserts. He also offers vegan options.

Walden, who is from the Detroit area, said his grandmother taught him how to cook when he was young, and he has used her recipes to develop his own unique seasoning sauce, batter and cornbread from scratch.

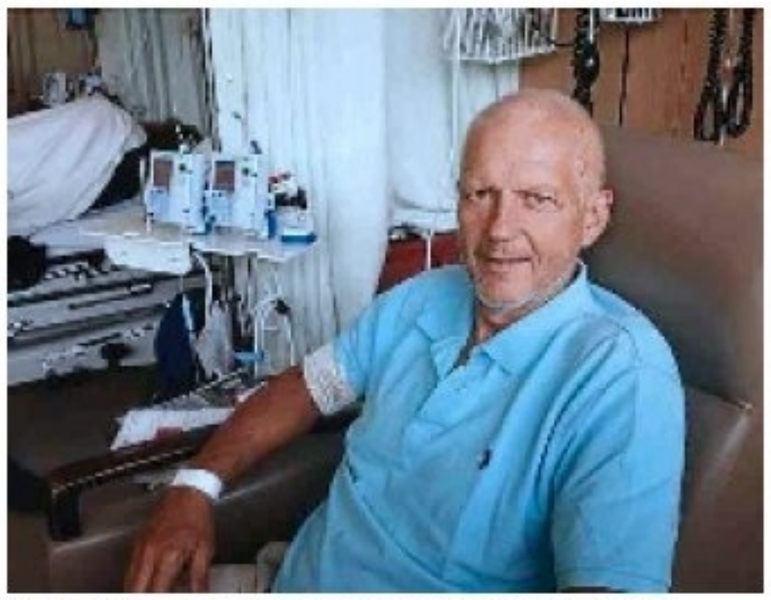
Valentine's Day was his pilot night, and Walden was not prepared for the amount of orders he received.

"I gotta go buy a new waffle iron now because now I know that two waffle irons aren't enough, because we went through 90 waffles last night alone," he said.

"Learning a new app and having a lot of people order delivery at the same time, that was a new one for me."

Walden has some concerns about Uber's delivery radius limiting his customer base, but remains optimistic. He also offers catering services.

"I've done everything but bed and breakfast and a hotel," he said. "It's fun, I love it, I don't think I want to do nothing else but do ghost restaurants from here on out."



Rick Sowieta is hoping an experimental treatment in Germany will save his life. CONTRIBUTED

Ontario to change tack

HEALTH

But approach comes too late for former Rough Rider

Dylan C. Robertson
For Metro | Ottawa

After years of growing criticism, Ontario will soon dust off an experimental cancer-surgery machine and test a technology hailed for its efficacy in tackling severe pancreatic cancer.

Ottawa football veteran Rick Sowieta leaves for Germany on Thursday, for a Feb. 23 surgery thanks to a crowdfunding effort.

"It's obviously too late for myself, but for others it's a great ray of hope," Sowieta told Metro.

At least a dozen Ontarians have sought the procedure abroad, called irreversible electroporation. Also known as NanoKnife, the surgery uses electric prongs to destroy cancer cells.

Ontario's health ministry said Tuesday it would start using the NanoKnife owned by Toronto's University Health Network to treat complex pancreatic cancer. Previously, it was only used on liver tumours.

A month ago, the ministry said the evidence of NanoKnife's efficacy was limited.

Hector Macmillan, mayor of Trent Hills, Ont., had loudly criticized the province ever since his $60,000 surgery in Germany last October, covered by crowdfunding.

The $2.1-million pilot project starts this spring, with a NanoKnife surgery for 33 patients, and 33 others receiving treatment through a conventional radiotherapy treatment.

That's a positive sign for Sowieta, who had a decade-long career as a linebacker for the Ottawa Rough Riders, the Redblacks' predecessor.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BROADCASTING

Politicians ask TVO to keep broadcast going

Provincial politicians in Ottawa are asking TVO to change its mind about a cost-cutting decision to end over-the-air broadcasts outside the Greater Toronto Area.

Last month the public broadcaster announced it was ending the free signal in Ottawa, prompting an online petition to keep the transmission going that has received more than 1,300 signatures.

TVO has officially filed a notice with the CRTC to end the transmission in Ottawa, Belleville, Chatham, Cloyne, Kitchener, London, Thunder Bay and Windsor in order to save the company $1 million.

CRTC spokesperson Céline Legault said the authority does not have the power to force TVO to keep the eight transmitters on, since keeping the GTA signal will fulfil the conditions of their broadcast licence.

Ottawa South MPP John Fraser and Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi both confirmed they are trying to have the decision reversed. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

REGINA STREET

Eco programming could keep school open

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A unique proposal to turn Regina Street Public School into an alternative school focused on ecological learning could save it from being closed.

For the past five years, the public school has made use of nearby Mud Lake as a tool for regular hands-on outdoor learning. That unique project could save the school from being closed down as the OCDSB looks to save money by shuttering under-capacity schools.

In order to keep the school open, parents and area trustee Theresa Kavanagh are advocating that it become a unique regional "lab school" for kindergarten to Grade 6 students focused on environmental education.

The Alternative School model has garnered interest from the faculty of education at the University of Ottawa as a formal partner for the project.

During Tuesday and Wednesday evening meetings, school trustees voted on whether to follow through on recommended school closures. Regina Street was on the list but has been tentatively spared because of the proposal. A final decision will be made March 1.

> **"I think they saw there was a plan."**
> Theresa Kavanagh

"I'm very pleased that at this point in time the other trustees recognize the benefit of combining the alternative model to Regina with the present population," said Kavanagh.

"I think they saw that there was a plan. The ecological angle is very attractive, so that drew people. This was a unique plan and a lot of thought has gone into it," she said.

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Canada, EU cheer on free trade deal

ECONOMICS

European vote a sign of progress after eight years

Lawmakers in Canada and Europe are hailing Wednesday's approval of the Canada-EU free trade deal by the European Parliament as a win for the values of openness in the face of anti-trade movements, including the Donald Trump administration.

The legislature in Strasbourg, France, approved the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement by a margin of 408-254, with 33 abstentions. The vote clears a major hurdle for the deal that saw its first round of bargaining almost eight years ago and has had to overcome mounting anti-trade populism in Europe.

Canada's Parliament is also expected to ratify the deal in the coming months, which means 90 per cent of it would come into force under provisional application — a key procedural step that allows the deal to take effect without the ratification of the European Union's 28 member countries and numerous regional governments.

PM Justin Trudeau is flying to France and Germany where he will address the European Parliament. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was en route to France to deliver his own pro-trade message in an address Thursday to the European Parliament, a first for a Canadian leader, and to business leaders a day later in Germany.

On his way into a caucus meeting earlier Wednesday, Trudeau sang the praises of the deal as evidence of the merits of globalization.

"I think it's an illustration that when you put forward a progressive trade deal that takes into account the responsibility of governments to create good middle-class jobs, create inclusive growth — not just for a few, but for everyone — (and) that focuses on the middle class, we can move forward on globalization."

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom took direct aim at anti-globalization forces in remarks to Parliament, in what appeared to be a thinly veiled rebuttal to Trump's protectionist and anti-immigration policies.

"With Canada we share the democratic values of tolerance and openness. We co-operate in tackling common challenges such as migration, sustainable development, climate change and terrorism," Malmstrom said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL

'Knees together' judge seeks review

A judge who could lose his job after asking a sexual assault complainant why she couldn't keep her knees together is asking for a judicial review in his case. Justice Robin Camp wants to address the Canadian Judicial Council after the accused, Alexander Wagar, in the original trial was acquitted again in a retrial.

In court documents filed this week, Camp says the council refused his request to speak because he already had the opportunity to address a disciplinary panel and the acquittal didn't change anything. Camp noted that five council members felt Camp should be heard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Immigrants in U.S. vow to disappear — for a day

ACTIVISM!

Part of massive cross-country action to show their value

Organizers in cities across the U.S. are telling immigrants to miss class, miss work and not shop on Thursday as a way to show the country how important they are to America's economy and way of life.

"A Day Without Immigrants" actions are planned in cities including Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Austin, Texas.

The protest comes in response to President Donald Trump and his 1-month-old administration. The Republican president has pledged to increase deportation of immigrants living in the country illegally, build a wall along the Mexican border, and ban people from certain majority-Muslim countries from coming into the U.S. He also has blamed high unemployment on immigration.

Protesters gather in Milwaukee, Wisc. to rally against President Donald Trump's policy on immigration. Organizers are telling immigrants to skip class, miss work and not shop Thursday. GETTY

Employers and institutions in some cities were already expressing solidarity Wednesday with immigrant workers.

Washington restaurateur John Andrade said he would close his businesses Thursday, and David Suro, owner of Tequilas Restaurant in Philadelphia and a Mexican immigrant, said he also planned to participate.

The Davis Museum at Wellesley College in Massachusetts said it would remove or shroud all artwork created or given by immigrants to the museum through Feb. 21.

In New Mexico, the state with the largest percentage of Hispanic residents in the nation, school officials worried that hundreds of students may stay home on Thursday.

"We respectfully ask all parents to acknowledge that students need to be in class every day to benefit from the education they are guaranteed and to avoid falling behind in school and life," principals with the Albuquerque Public Schools wrote in a letter to parents.

Students who take part in the protest will receive an unexcused absence, Albuquerque school officials said.

Organizers in Philadelphia said they expect hundreds of workers and families to participate.

"Our goal is to highlight the need for Philadelphia to expand policies that stop criminalizing communities of colour," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, a non-profit group that works with the Latino immigrant community. "What would happen if massive raids did happen? What would the city look like?"

Almiron said that while community groups have not seen an uptick in immigration raids in the city, residents are concerned about the possibility.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LABOUR

American workers enter a 'dark period'

A review of the U.S. Department of Labor's website revealed that multiple posts about protecting precarious workers, enforcing labour laws, and cracking down on wage theft have vanished.

"If we have been living in an overcast period for working people in the U.S., we are about to enter into a dark, dark period," said California-based workers' rights advocate Carmen Rojas.

There are notable disappearances, including an executive order that lifted the minimum wage of federal contractors to $10.10 an hour — a move that provided an estimated 200,000 low-wage workers with a raise. Numerous links to Department of Labor blog posts also appeared to be broken, specifically on issues related to wage theft, enforcement, and employee misclassification — the practice of wrongly classifying workers as independent contractors to avoid legal obligations like paying minimum wage.

All three areas were championed under Obama in an effort to better protect vulnerable workers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISRAEL

Trump charts new course for Middle East

President Donald Trump on Wednesday withheld clear support for an independent Palestine and declared he could endorse a one-nation solution to the long and deep dispute between Palestinians and Israel.

The American president, signalling a new era of comity between the U.S. and Israel after rocky relations under President Barack Obama, said he was more interested in an agreement that leads to peace than in any particular path to get there.

While Trump urged Netanyahu to "hold off" on Jewish settlement construction in territory the Palestinians claim for their future state, he offered unwavering support for Israel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON SECULAR DRESS CODES

A Montreal philosopher co-authored a report nine years ago that recommended imposing a secular dress code. The mosque shooting now has him regretting that suggestion.

Almost a decade ago, Montreal philosopher Charles Taylor — one of Canada's leading intellectuals — co-presided over a provincial commission on religious accommodation that recommended, among other measures, that Quebec impose a secular dress code on the province's judges and police forces.

In so doing, he and historian/sociologist Gérald Bouchard inadvertently planted the seeds of Quebec's decade-long fixation on religious vestments in general and the Muslim veil in particular.

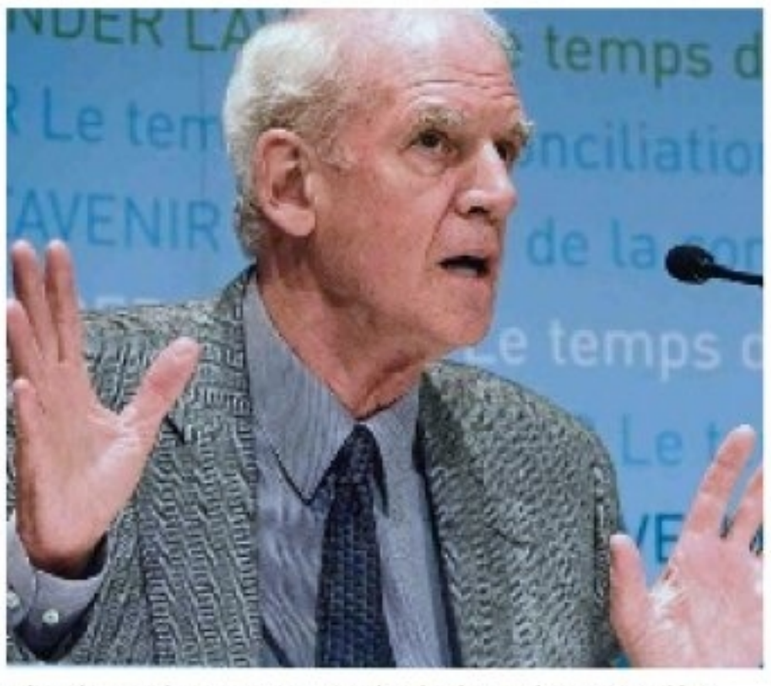
Some of those seeds eventually found their way elsewhere in Canada, most notably in the shape of the debate on the place of the niqab at citizenship ceremonies at the time of the last federal election.

The Bouchard-Taylor report was more than 300 pages long and most of its recommendations dealt with measures designed to nurture a pluralistic society. But it was the notion of a government-imposed ban on religious signs that stuck with the public.

The imprimatur of two leading thinkers freed part of Quebec's chattering and political classes to jump on the dress code bandwagon and advocate restrictions on individual religious expression that would have been unthinkable prior to the report.

Taylor and Bouchard prescribed a ban on religious signs for people invested, by virtue of their positions, with coercive powers. In the rhetoric of the Coalition Avenir Québec and the Parti Québécois, that came to mean anyone in a position of authority. And even that term soon lost any semblance of meaning.

In the PQ's defunct secularism charter, a secular dress code would have been imposed on anyone on the public payroll, from clerks to nurses to doctors to child-care workers.



After the Quebec mosque attack, Charles Taylor reversed his support for a secular dress code in Quebec . THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neither academic had such blanket restrictions in mind when they wrote their report. On various occasions, both tried to set the record straight.

Now Taylor has gone a step further. In an op-ed piece published in La Presse earlier this week, he urged Quebec's political class to put back in the bottle the genie he and Bouchard let out. In hindsight, he wrote, he wishes he had left the bottle uncorked.

Taylor says he never did believe that a prohibition on religious signs, be it on those who sit on the court benches or wear a police uniform, was necessarily in keeping with Quebec's secular character.

In his op-ed, it comes across as little more than a bone thrown to the many Quebecers who felt their identity was threatened by expressions of religious diversity. The proposal had more to do with marketing than actual values.

Taylor writes that he thought the recommendation would help a majority of Quebecers buy in to the more positive prescriptions of the report.

The opposite, of course, happened. Even with the best of intentions, opportunism is not a substitute for principles.

Taylor also predicts that should the national assembly ever put the restrictions on religious signs he once advocated into law, the courts would throw them out.

That, too, is a bit of a stunning admission.

Over the past decade, there has not been in Canada a substantial court ruling that would infirm or affirm Taylor's doubts as to the legal standing of the proposal he is recanting. In other words, if he believes it would probably not survive a charter challenge now, he would have had cause to suspect as much at the time of the writing of the report.

Taylor said it was the attack on a Quebec mosque two weeks ago that prompted his public reversal. In the aftermath of that attack, the parties in the national assembly essentially resumed the debate over religious accommodation where they had left off. Arguing that a majority of Quebecers back the dress code restrictions of the Bouchard-Taylor report, the opposition parties have been pressuring the Liberal government to pass them into law.

Taylor believes that the public goodwill that has resulted from the mosque tragedy will be squandered if Quebec's political class does not switch its focus from debating how far to restrict the rights of religious minorities to the building of more bridges with the Muslim community.

Predictably, since he reversed his position, Taylor has been vilified on social media. Some have called him a Liberal sellout; others accuse him of being a fundamentalist.

It took courage for Taylor to repudiate a notion that has driven Quebec's identity debate for the best part of a decade. Still one cannot help but regret that he did not exhibit that courage nine years ago, at the time of the co-writing of the report that bears his name.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

The choice is hers Rachel Lindsay is the next Bachelorette, the first black lead in the show's history. WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

Reality TV gets real

Vicky Mochama
Metro

After 13 seasons of ignoring it, I am now a massive fan of television's longest-running arranged marriage scheme, The Bachelorette. This is because the newest bachelorette is Rachel Lindsay, a black female attorney.

It doesn't even air until May 22 and I can conclusively say it is the best show on television. And not only did ABC announce this during Black History Month, but — it can't be coincidence — the new season also premieres on my birthday. Fate has foretold the greatness of this show.

Even though it's in the vapid confines of The Bachelorette, it is still awesome to see many men vying for a black woman's attention and love. Yet it is telling about the state of the world that the producers, looking for ways to shake up the show, landed on "What if she was a black?"

Like using bad olive oil, it is offensive but not egregious. It suggests there's something incredibly wild and risky about dating a black woman. (I mean, there is, but that is because black women are incredible! Not because we are like feral animals in the outback.)

At the same time: finally.

This show has been on for 12 seasons! Black people have been around for much longer!

Although there have been black contestants on both The Bachelor and Bachelorette, Lindsay included, they've never been the ones doing the choosing. And since the show's inception in 2002, they never got chose either.

Black women who are dating are statistically less likely to be picked. According to data from OkCupid founder Christian Rudder, men on the website find black women the least desirable group.

In a cover feature for The Walrus, Hadiya Roderique experimented with the idea by alternating her OkCupid profile between her actual pictures, pictures of a white woman, and a "whitened" version of herself. As a white woman, she received far more messages than when she presented as herself, a black woman.

This jives with my own dating experience. The first time I quit Tinder was because the messages I received were hyper-sexualized and racialized. The former is part of the appeal of the app to some, but for me the combination just created a digitized version of the racist sexual harassment I experience in real life.

(I am back on again with some rules — e.g. if the other person says something even remotely racial, I hit that unmatch button faster than Usain Bolt sprints.)

For black women, the romantic fairy tale told by popular culture hasn't included us. That is why I will be watching The Bachelorette when Rachel Lindsay finds her Prince Harry.

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METRO FOCUS ACTIVISM!
Your essential daily news
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Actress-producer Krysten Ritter is becoming a novelist. Crown Archetype said that it had acquired Ritter's Bonfire, a psychological thriller about an environmental lawyer and a company accused of dumping toxic chemicals.

Books for bitter times

The reads that helped Marissa Stapley up on her soapbox. CONTRIBUTED

TAKING ISSUES

Put the phone away and open up to genuinely alternative facts

Marissa Stapley
Torstar News Service

In a world where facts and truth are becoming collateral damage, I've been speaking out even more than usual, and I'm not alone. There's an anger being awakened in all of us.

For me, that means having pointless arguments online with people I went to elementary school with and will probably never see again, and harsh, politically charged arguments with close family members.

None of this has been rewarding, and it certainly hasn't changed anything. But what will?

I realized recently that in order to find that out, I needed to shut down my computer, look away from my phone and turn to the place within which I've always sought knowledge and comfort: books.

Debate

In **I'm Right and You're an Idiot** (New Society, 272 pages, $19.95) Canadian public relations guru turned author and activist James Hoggan writes: "In debate we assume we have the right answer, whereas dialogue assumes we all have pieces of the answer and can craft a solution together.

"Debate is combative and about winning, while dialogue is collaborative and focuses on exploring the common good. Debaters defend their assumptions and criticize the views of others, whereas in dialogue we reveal assumptions and examine all positions, including our own."

To that end, here's what I've been reading lately to find ways to constructively support what I already value and believe and to open my mind to the beliefs of others. Plus, I needed to find a way to stop shouting so much.

Liberalism

Listen, Liberal (Thomas Frank, Metropolitan Books, 320 pages, $31.50) takes on the democratic elite. As Canada awakens to how very like the U.S. we may be, questioning liberal values with an eye to both defending them and improving them, as well as truly understanding what it means to be elitist, is an uncomfortable necessity.

Classism

So, what's the opposite of a member of the liberal elite? **Hillbilly Elegy** (J.D. Vance, Harper, 272 pages, $34.99) has the answer to that. Vance was raised in the Rust Belt by a drug-addicted mother and then in the Appalachians by guardian grandparents who struggled with alcoholism and violence.

They loved him fiercely. His story puts a face to the white underclass who have become so outspoken in today's political arena. There's a lot to grapple with in a book like this but it's a good place to start when trying to understand what's going on in communities you may not identify with — and it makes it clear that speaking out from within, in any community, is the only way forward.

Religion

Next, I read **Letters to a Young Muslim**, by Omar Saif Ghobash (Picador; 272 pages, $31). This book is meant as a plea for moderation from an author who has clearly listened deeply and wants to speak the truth, gently and respectfully.

He's also writing to his sons, which ups the ante. No shouting allowed. Those arguing with the most fierceness — on both sides — about immigration bans and extremism may know nothing about what it means to be a Muslim or what Islam is. This is just a starting point, and a fine one at that.

Feminism

Now, on to feminism. I've been a feminist practically since I could speak in full sentences but never before have I felt on one hand so supported and on the other so opposed.

I've read plenty of books that support what I already think, but **Unfinished Business** by Anne Slaughter (Random House, 352 pages, $32) reminded me that this word "equality" I keep using might not mean what I think it does — and she bravely offers up a manifesto for true equality.

Why I Am Not A Feminist by Jessa Crispin (Melville House, 176 pages, $33.99) comes from an author who has created an identity out of being a contrarian, true, but who also demands more of mainstream feminism than it's currently delivering. (She is indeed looking directly at all of us in our cute pink pussy hats.)

Conservatism

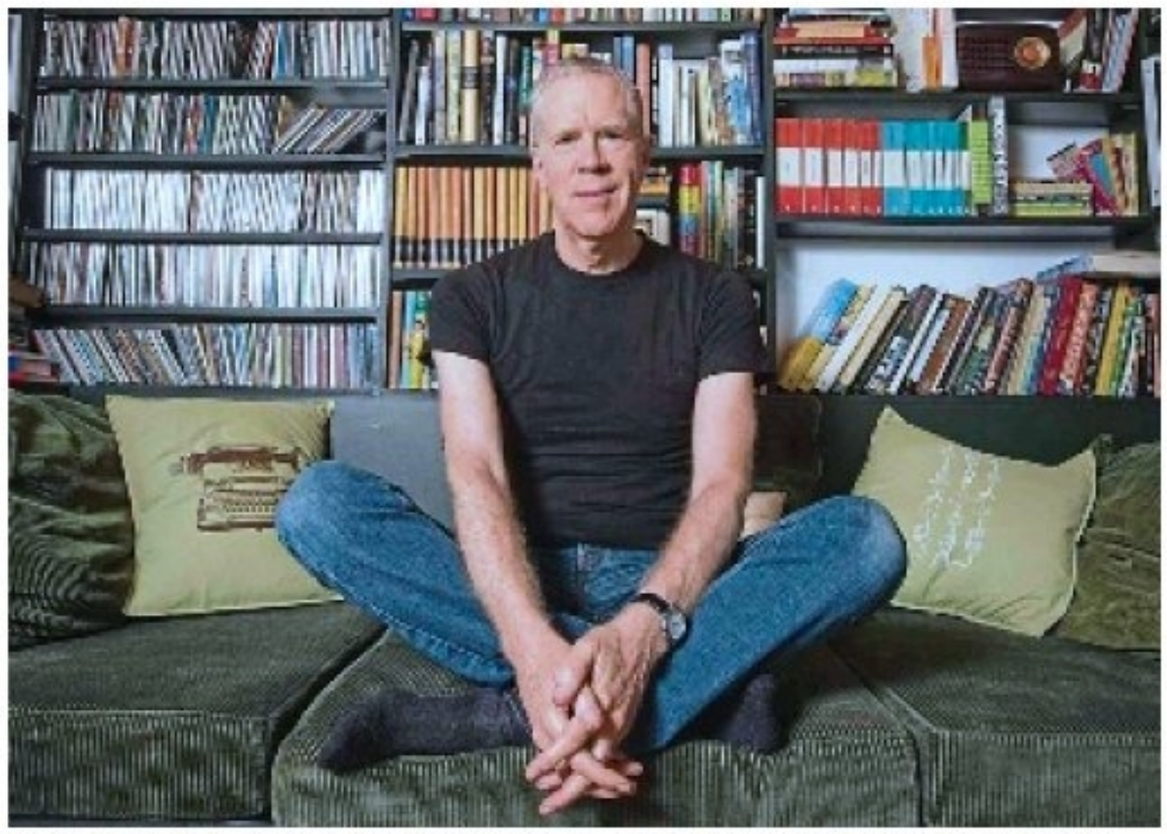
This is all just a beginning. I'm still searching — and late this week, my search led me to the Little Free Library on my street. And there it was, a battered volume called **Confessions of a Conservative**.

When I got it home, I realized it was written in 1979 by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Garry Wills. Wills is a Roman Catholic who has criticized the approach of the church to homosexuality, abortion and contraception. He once wrote an article for The New York Review of Books that took on the second amendment. He no longer calls himself a conservative, mostly because of his experiences covering the civil rights movement, for example — but also because the conservatives won't have him.

Wills was brave, both to stand for something and then to abandon it when listening to the other side led him to a new way of seeing. I'm planning to stay open to this, no matter where my current quest for balanced knowledge leads me.

Courage, as well as a stack of books, is imperative.

The man who connected us



Humorist, radio host and author Stuart McLean was an officer of the Order of Canada and a professor emeritus at Ryerson University in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

OBITUARY

Tributes pour in for beloved Vinyl Cafe host Stuart McLean

Stuart McLean, a bestselling author, journalist and humorist who was "firmly committed to celebrating the positive, joyful and funny side of life" through his popular CBC Radio program The Vinyl Cafe, has died. He was 68.

"We were deeply saddened to learn that Stuart McLean passed away earlier today. Stuart was an exceptional storyteller who has left an indelible mark on CBC Radio and countless communities across Canada," read a statement from Susan Marjetti, executive director of radio and audio for CBC English Services.

In December, McLean announced he was suspending the long-running program to focus on treatment for melanoma, which he was diagnosed with in late 2015. He said his first round of immunotherapy treatment that winter was not completely successful and he needed to undergo another round this year.

The Vinyl Cafe radio show, which featured a mix of stories, essays and musical performances, was spun off into bestselling books and became a touring production in 2008. The show's stories centred on Dave, the owner of a secondhand record store, and also featured Dave's wife, Morley, their two children, Sam and Stephanie, and various friends.

> **His Dave and Morley stories made us pause, reflect, but most of all laugh along together**
> CBC's Susan Marjetti

"Every week for 22 years, Stuart connected with his listeners in a way that few before him have. His Dave and Morley stories were as entertaining as they were enlightening; they made us pause, reflect, but most of all laugh along together," said Marjetti.

A posting on the official Vinyl Cafe website said the staff behind the show were "finding comfort in memories of our dear friend."

"Stuart always emphasized that the world is a good place, full of good people, trying to do their best. He believed in people's extraordinary capacity for love and generosity. And he had faith in our ability to work together for the common good," the message reads.

"Stuart connected us — to our country and to each other. He entertained us, he made us think, he made us smile. Occasionally he made us cry. And, through all of that, he reminded us that life is made up of small moments. We never know which ones will be forgotten and which ones will stay with us forever."

McLean had been upbeat about his cancer setback and told fans in an online message posted in December that he expected to return to work.

"I don't want you to worry about me. A year ago I told you that I expected this to be just a bump in the road, not the end of the road. I still believe that to be true. I hope we will meet up again — on the radio or in theatres. We'll make sure to tell you before that happens," McLean wrote.

"In the meantime, look after yourselves and each other. And know that this isn't goodbye. It's just ... so long for now."

On Twitter, comedian Mark Critch of the CBC show This Hour Has 22 Minutes paid tribute to McLean. "I wrote several #StuartMaclean parodies for '22.' They were easy to write because I was such a fan of his work. I'll miss his Canada," Critch tweeted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Laura Dern's sympathy for alpha mom you love to hate

Ryan Porter
For Metro Canada

Laura Dern plays Renata Klein in Big Little Lies. HBO

In the HBO miniseries Big Little Lies, Laura Dern plays Renata Klein, the Queen of Monterey, California, whose idea of a fabulous summer vacation is joining the board of Paypal. When Renata is pitted against a fellow alpha mom, played by Reese Witherspoon, murder, naturally, ensues. The Oscar-nominated actor spoke to Metro about finding sympathy for "the character that you love to hate."

What was it like to film in a beautiful beachfront home?
So. Gorgeous. When they showed the first episode at a premiere this week, when people saw me on my deck, they laughed. They think they know that person. The richest one. The most powerful. And the minute you set that up she becomes the character that you love to hate.

How did you find sympathy for her?
It's interesting to see how men and fathers interact in the world, and no one's judging their parenting based on their career or lack of career. But they are judging a working mom.

Your co-star Shailene Woodley said that when Donald Trump won, she had already grieved. Were you surprised?
I was as devastated as I have felt in my lifetime. I had done what a lot of my friends did and that was to ensure my children that (Hillary Clinton's win) would be the only outcome. And I was right, because 3.4 million more people voted for her. She did win people's vote. Having worked on the film Recount for HBO, I went through a lot of research to play a woman who was notorious for helping voter suppression and voter fraud. It exists every time we have (an election), but if you're going to add another country's involvement, it means the system is broken and your voice may be overlooked. How do you explain that to your kids?

A recent study found that Americans ranked busy people, like your character, as high status. Do you see a shift in how people look at work/life balance?
As Americans, we hurry ourselves to make it all happen as fast as possible. Art doesn't work that way. The great artists that inspired me are the ones that take time and let things gestate.

If you had known as a child that you would grow up to be in a Star Wars movie, what would you have thought?
I was raised by actors, and I wouldn't have dreamt it up. It never occurred to me until I was on set and I looked around. I was in shock.

Big Little Lies premieres Feb. 19 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HBO Canada.

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Suzanne Somers lists her 73-acre Palm Springs compound for $14.5M

Barrhaven community selling out fast

Project overview

The first stage at Quinn's Pointe, a development of singles and townhomes in Barrhaven, is selling out quickly. It will likely be sold out this spring. Minto has a few move-in-soon homes, but most homes have closing dates later in 2017 and into 2018.

Location and transit

The site is close to Barrhaven's amenities, including shopping, entertainment, schools and medical centres, as well as the Minto Recreation Complex, which offers fitness and recreation. Quinn's Pointe is not far from Highway 416 and a network of transit routes.

Housing amenities

Models have varying features, such as open concept designs, large windows and nine-foot ceilings. There's plenty of storage space, and some styles also have mudrooms, finished basements and single or double car garages. All homes include a private lot and a front and back yard.

In the neighbourhood

Quinn's Pointe is a family-oriented community, with dedicated land for parks and schools. The neighbourhood integrates with the existing Half Moon Bay and Stonebridge communities in south Barrhaven, creating a well-balanced, established feel. ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

QUINN'S POINTE

CONTRIBUTED

NEED TO KNOW

What: Quinn's Pointe
Builder: Minto
Designer: Minto
Location: Off Greenbank Road and Kilbirnie Drive
Building: Singles and townhomes
Sizes: 1,154 to 3,294 square feet
Model: Two to five bedrooms, 1.5 to 3.5 bathrooms
Pricing: Starting at $236,900
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Late 2017, early 2018
Sales centre: 4005 Strandherd Dr.
Phone: (613) 823-1900
Website: minto.com

metro SPORTS

"It's still like a World Series tour. We've got to turn the page": Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant

Senators owner hopeful for a deep playoff run

NHL

Melnyk says team could be active before trade deadline

It's no surprise that following a life-saving liver transplant Eugene Melnyk has a greater appreciation for life. The Ottawa Senators owner is grateful for his second chance and plans to make the most of it.

Melnyk was in the nation's capital Wednesday to launch his new foundation, The Organ Project, whose main initiative is to end waitlists for transplant patients. Melnyk, who received a live liver donation in May 2015, wants to take an active role in creating more awareness about organ donation.

"Being on death's door is not a pretty sight when you're sitting there, and you can't do anything about getting people to donate deceased organs or even live organs until you do a public plea, and then it's a shot in the dark," said Melnyk. "The best way to do it is to make sure there is no lineup and that really is the objective."

Melnyk plans to take a personal role in the new foundation while keeping a close eye on his team with the playoffs approaching.

In the 14 years since he bought the Senators, Melnyk has seen his team advance to the Stanley Cup final once, in 2007. Since then, Ottawa has not made it past the second round.

Entering Wednesday night's games, the Senators (29-19-6) were tied for second place in the Atlantic Division. A postseason berth is a real possibility and Melnyk sees reason to be hopeful.

"I think now, finally, (we) have dug out of a three-year hole," he said. "It was kind of sad. One out of three years you get into the playoffs and you get blown out and the others you don't get in. Now it's exciting.

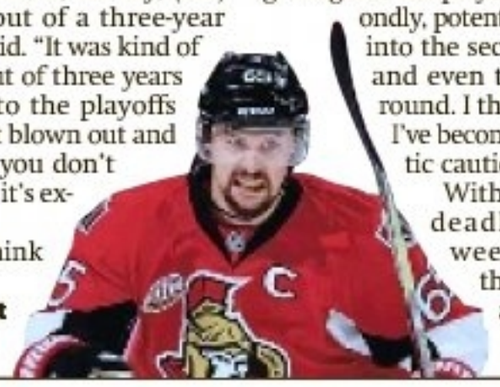
"I just think we have the potential, first, of getting into the playoffs and secondly, potentially going into the second, third and even the fourth round. I think finally I've become optimistic cautiously."

With the trade deadline two weeks away, the Senators are still interested in adding a few pieces. However, Melnyk said he would wait until after Saturday's game against Toronto before sitting down with general manager Pierre Dorion to discuss how to proceed.

"Did you see what they want for (Avs forward Matt) Duchene and stuff, oh my God," said Melnyk. "It's going to be silly because there's so many competitive teams, especially in our conference. From bottom to top, even if I was at the bottom I'd still have hope. I think it will be way too expensive and we're not going to jeopardize our future. Everyone wants our young stars and I don't blame them.

"I think we're going to be smart about it to build a long-term base and a long-term team, but we're urgently wanting to win of course." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senators owner Eugene Melnyk underwent a life-saving liver transplant last May. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Captain Erik Karlsson and the Senators host the Devils on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

ATTENDANCE

- Over 31 home games this season, the Senators have averaged 16,336 spectators at Canadian Tire Centre. That's well below the arena's capacity of 18,572.
- "It's a catch-22," Melnyk said. "You need more people to come to the games to spend more to get a better team and the better your team is the more people come."

NBA ALL-STAR GAME

Equality statement made in Big Easy

The city hosting this year's NBA All-Star Game has long enjoyed a reputation as a welcoming place for the gay and lesbian community. New Orleans is home to one of the country's oldest gay bars, the gay celebration Southern Decadence draws nearly 200,000 people yearly, and gay and lesbian authors flock there for the Saints and Sinners literary festival.

All of that acceptance will be on full display this weekend in a not-so-subtle statement about equality.

The city of Charlotte was supposed to host the game Sunday, but the NBA moved it to New Orleans when North Carolina passed "the bathroom bill," which limits protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people. It also requires transgender people to use many public restrooms corresponding with the sex on their birth certificate.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards touted the state's diversity while lobbying the NBA, saying bringing the game to New Orleans would reaffirm the league's "commitment to communities that value fairness and inclusion."

Just last year, Edwards signed an executive order barring discrimination against LGBTQ state workers and contractors.

The NBA has stated the issue of LGBTQ inclusion played a role in moving the game to New Orleans as did the city's ability to work under a tight deadline on big events. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

Lesnar retires from mixed martial arts

Former UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar has informed the mixed martial arts promotion that he is retired from competition.

The UFC confirmed the former heavyweight champion's decision Wednesday.

Lesnar, 39, returned from a 4.5-year MMA absence last July to beat Mark Hunt at UFC 200, but the result was overturned after Lesnar failed two doping tests. He was subsequently suspended from competition for a year by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which administers the UFC's doping policy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brock Lesnar GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Real Madrid tops Napoli in first leg of matchup

Defending champion Real Madrid recovered after conceding a stunning early goal to beat Napoli 3-1 on Wednesday and stay on track for its seventh straight appearance in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Karim Benzema, Toni Kroos and Casemiro all scored for Madrid in the Round of 16 first-leg match at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Bayern in driver's seat after beatdown

Bayern Munich answered its critics with a comprehensive 5-1 rout of Arsenal in the first leg of their Champions League clash to put one foot in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Thiago Alcantara struck twice in a superb performance, while Arjen Robben, Robert Lewandowski and substitute Thomas Mueller scored the other goals. Alexis Sanchez scored for Arsenal.

> **It's a very, very good position. It should do.**
> Bayern captain Philipp Lahm

The second leg of the Round of 16 matchup is on March 7.

Arsenal lost captain Laurent Koscielny to injury early in the second half, and looks set to exit at the same stage for the seventh season in a row. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers prepare for the NBA All-Star Game festivities outside Smoothie King Center in New Orleans on Tuesday. GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Creamy Caprese Skillet Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A one-pot meal offering the classic flavours of sweet basil and tomatoes with creamy cheese.

Ready in minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 6 large boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 3/4 pound mini red, white and purple potatoes, halved or quartered if large
- 6-8 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup bocconcini
- 8-10 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400.

2. Rub the chicken thighs on both sides with olive oil and then generously season with salt and pepper.

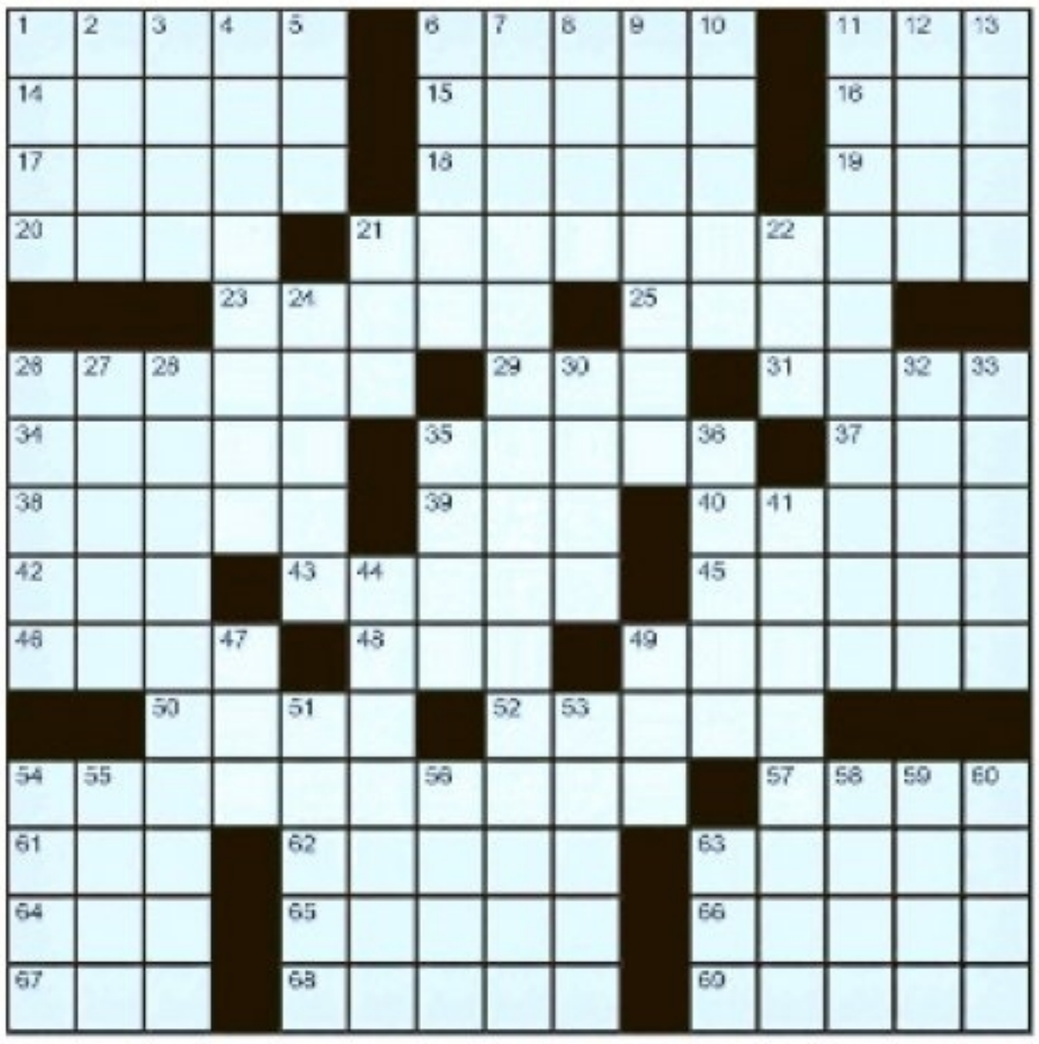
3. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, cover and cook until it browns on one side, about 3 minutes. Turn the chicken; add the potatoes. Allow the chicken to cook another 3 minutes to brown then add the cherry tomatoes; transfer to oven and roast, uncovered, until chicken and potatoes are cooked, about 20 minutes.

4. Remove skillet from pan and toss in cheese and garnish with basil.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Movie
6. "The table __ __." (Helpful dinner-time comment)
11. Tree's fluid
14. Pliant/agile
15. Put __ __ (Get working)
16. Make the score even
17. "__ Which Way But Loose" (1978)
18. West: French
19. Pro golfer Ernie
20. Half, in Hull
21. Most like bread's famous spread
23. Strip of mown lawn
25. Table salt, chemistry-style
26. Indifference
29. The Beeb
31. Mr. Kristofferson
34. "The Godfather" (1972) syndicate
35. Herd-heralded
37. Rapscallion
38. More likely to
39. Not in fashion
40. Adversary
42. Mystery novelist Ms. Grafton
43. People from Helsinki's country
45. __-3 fatty acid
46. Baby Atlantic Herring, for short
48. 'Sure' sign
49. Nova Scotia's provincial bird
50. Big bathing basins
52. Trunk
54. Daytime TV dramas: 2 wds.
57. Young sheep
61. Sneeze starters...
62. __ Marner (1861 novel)
63. Jewel
64. Meet for a meeting
65. Elliptical path
66. Etruria's environs
67. Horticulturist's implement
68. Financial resources
69. Fathers: French

DOWN
1. Escaped
2. 1995: "Lightning Crashes" band
3. Detail
4. Modelling legend Ms. Brinkley
5. Important
6. "We Can Work __ __" by The Beatles
7. 1971 song by #11-Down: 2 wds.
8. Tallow source
9. Gist
10. Bright pet fish
11. Canadian band with the hit "Ten Pound Note", as well as #7-Down: 2 wds.
12. Is feeling poorly
13. Nuisance
21. James or Hudson
22. "Eeew!"
24. Dock
26. Stockpile
27. __ New Guinea
28. Leftover flavour
30. C-3PO, et al.
32. Effigy
33. Flare
35. Uni
36. Smeltery waste
41. Discourteous
44. Motivate in a way
47. Clone or copy, curtly
49. Alternative words
51. Tom Hanks sitcom, "__ Buddies"
53. Brewery kilns
54. Belt alternative
55. 2004: "__ Is for Lovers" by Hawthorne Heights
56. British actor Idris
58. Slightly open
59. Sort of spy
60. Purchases
63. Marcel Marceau's clown

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Talk to groups or classes today, especially with younger people. This also is a good day to do some goal setting for the future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are mentally energetic today, which is why you will make a good impression talking to bosses, parents and VIPs. Don't hesitate to share your ideas.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is easy to study today or learn anything new. You also will love to make travel plans and have discussions about philosophy, religion, politics and metaphysics.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to discuss shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. You have the mental energy to plow through a lot of red-tape details.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Discussions with partners and close friends will be lively and dynamic today. Everyone is full of bright ideas, and of course, you are quick to see the bottom line and grasp the big picture.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This will be a productive day at work because you can communicate well with others. In addition, you have the energy to work with your hands and accomplish something.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are creative today. Get busy working in the arts, the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or anything to do with sports or children.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an excellent day to tackle home repairs. It's also a great day for family discussions, because you have a desire to communicate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Writers, salespeople, actors and teachers are empowered today. You are keen to communicate and you have great ideas. This is because your mental energy is strong.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're full of moneymaking ideas today. It's a good idea to write them down in case you want to act on one of them later. (It's not every day that we have bright ideas.)

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Mercury is in your sign now, which is why you are so keen to communicate to others. You have ideas and dreams, and you want to enlighten others by sharing these ideas.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Research of any kind will go well today, because you have the motivation, stamina and the attention to detail that is needed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

					5			
	4	8	6			3	7	
6								8
3			5	2	4		8	
	2		7	3	1			5
4								7
	8	7			2	9	4	
			9					

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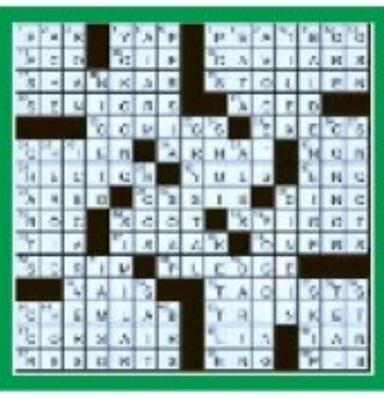

7	2	4	5	1	6	3	8	9
9	6	5	8	7	3	2	1	4
8	3	1	2	4	9	7	6	5
3	5	7	6	9	2	8	4	1
1	9	2	4	5	8	6	3	7
4	8	6	7	3	1	9	5	2
2	4	3	9	6	5	1	7	8
6	7	9	1	8	4	5	2	3
5	1	8	3	2	7	4	9	6

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